



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 05/09/2009

ARINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 5/9/09

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*		Bayer*	Phelps*	Dunn*
DeCourcey*	Connors*	Simmons*	Olszewski*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Ferrara *	Franclemont*	Jones*	Deshler*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: School Committee Members Joe Curran, Zeba Heigham, Jeff Thielman Denise Burns, Ron Spangler, Superintendent Kathy Bodie, Chief Financial Officer Sue Mazzarella, Barbara Goodman, Juli Brazile, Jackie Ford, Town Manager Brian Sullivan, Deputy Town Manager Nancy Galkowski,

MINUTES of 4/13/09 and 5/6/09 accepted as corrected. Unanimous

SCHOOL BUDGET: Bodie, using a handout supported by information provided earlier through the SubCom walked the FinCom through the budget as approved by the School Committee on 4/14. After using the December Town revenue allocation and taking all revenue including Federal stimulus funds into account (\$45.2m) and totaling salary commitments and expenses (\$46.5m) there remained a \$1.3m deficit. The Superintendent then decided to count on savings from bringing SPED students in house, charging certain foreign students and adjusting custodial overtime charges to bring the deficit to \$503k. Bodie with her admin team then identified 16 reductions that would balance the budget. The School Committee has yet to vote on these items. Subsequently State Aid reductions have reduced the allocation to schools of Town revenue to \$36.9m which will require further reductions. Some of these have also been identified in the Tier 1 & 2 listing. FinCom members asked many questions. Bodie, supported by the School Committee members answered. Some results included a deeper discussion of SPED issues; no effort to plan for FY11; a METCO analysis has been done & copies were promised the FinCom; no progress on consolidation of Town & School functions; stimulus funds will require additional reporting.

TOWN BUDGET: Sullivan, using an information packet provided at the meeting and, by email, the day before, walked the FinCom through a revised 5 yr plan. The plan shows a 2% spending increase for the schools and a 0.89% increase for the Town. It assumes no COLAs in FY10 and a 10.25% health insurance increase. All changes were relative to the FY09 budget w/ 9c cuts. This plan assumes the House Ways & Means budget w/ Quinn Bill funding restored. \$2,742,376 of the Override Stabilization Fund would be used. Sullivan is still negotiating for joining GIC or a private plan equivalent to GIC. Galkowski reviewed 34 reductions from the budget provided in January totaling \$842k. She also provided new pages for the budget book. Again members asked many questions. The revised budget includes W&S offsets based on a new study of the support provided by Town departments. Most vacant positions are still carried in this budget. Police have submitted a COPS grant request to fund 4 patrolmen for 3 yrs. This would free some funds to increase the school allotment. No change in min manning of fire service.

VOTES: The FinCom voted almost all the budgets as recommended by Galkowski. See the table below. The ZBA, Selectman, Health & Human Services, Youth Services budgets were tabled to allow some investigation by the subcommittees. Ferrara to provide an appendix & a footnote to explain the change in W&S offsets. The FY09 budget as voted last year will be provided for reference in the report.

W&S EF: Ferrara presented a detailed analysis of this fund with a careful account of the indirect expenses based on the recent study. The budget is based on the 2/2 MWRA prelim charges. He said the remote reading water meter project has been revived. The DPW now has quotes. He warned that rates will increase at 6% a year because of the cost of borrowing for the harbor & aqueduct system. He recommended that the Town be allowed to retain earnings as it sees fit.

ADJUSTMENT OF BUDGET FIGURES IN REPORT: Because of the hurried nature of the process this year, the Chair is authorized to correct any errors found in the votes up to \$25000 administratively. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE: Meetings before Town Meeting will complete the budget votes. All members asked to carefully review draft reports & report errors to Jones.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$199,800

Peter B Howard 5/10/09 Revised 5/18/09

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site
VOTE SUMMARY - Articles

#	#	#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
2/11	3/3					
16	16		Marihuana Bylaw			Public Safety SubCom to inquire
27	27		After School Scholarship Fund	3/4	4/6	No report
28	28		Max Age for Appointment to Police & Fire		4/6	No report
29	29		Max Age For Police & Fire	3/18	3/18, 4/6	No action 11-3
30	30		Transfer Of McClennen Park			
31	31		Goodman Pension Time	2/11,3/2	3/2	No action
32	32		Govt Reorg Committee	2/11, 4/6		Need cost est
33	33		Pay As You Throw	2/23 4/6	4/13	Favorable action 12-1
34	XX		Library Copiers & Printers Fund			TM
35	XX		Parking Fund	2/18	2/18	No action
	35		200 th Anniversary Funds	4/13	4/13	Favorable action
	37		Collective Bargaining	4/13	4/13	No report at this time
40	38		Future Collective Bargaining	4/13	4/13	No report at this time
41	39		Salary Adjustment Elected Officials	4/13	4/13	No report at this time
42	40		Positions Reclassification	4/6	4/6	4366
43	41		Budgets			

44	42		Capital Budget	2/18	2/18	8242949
45	43		Rescind authority to borrow	2/18	2/18	177472
46	44		Minuteman Tech			
47	45		Minutean Tech Stabilization Fund			
48	46		Celebrations		4/13	\$10,667
49	47		Committees & Commissions	2/23,3/2 3/18 4/13	3/2, 3/18,4/13	All level funded except ARC \$3k 10- 3 & Disabilities \$3k
50	48		Misc Appropriations		4/13	12,632
51	49		Sewers		4/13	357,500
52	50		Water		4/13	1,300,000
53	51		Pension Adjustment	2/11	2/11	Support
	52		Local Option Taxes		4/13	No report at this time
55	53		Mead Road Improvements	3/2	3/4	No action Comment based on DPW memo
56	54		Disability Commission Appropriation	3/18	3/18	No action
57	55		Harry Barber Service Program	2/11	2/11	7500
58	56		Minuteman Senior Services	2/11	2/11	10145 9-4
59	57		Reevaluation	2/18	2/18	70000
60	58		Tax Exemptions	2/18	2/18	No action 14-1
61	59		Water Bodies	3/4	3/4	15000
62	60		Special Ed Reserve Account		4/13	150,000
63	61		OPEB		4/13	513,569
64	62		Tip Fee Stab Fund		4/13	680,000
65	63		Transfer of Cemetery Funds		4/13	190,000
66	64		Overlay Reserve		4/13	500,000
67	65		Stabilization Fund			
68	66		Free Cash		4/13	1,497,907

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	5/9	5/9	9663	
2	Board of Selectmen	5/9			tabled
3	Town Manager	5/9	5/9	419539	3000 OOS travel
4	Personnel	5/9	5/9	172537	
5	Information Technology	5/9	5/9	545254	
6	Comptroller	5/9	5/9	400863	

7	Treasurer	5/9	5/9	583921	
8	Postage	5/9	5/9	147203	
9	Assessors	5/9	5/9	309435	
10	Legal	5/9	5/9	414408	
11	Town Clerk	5/9	5/9	232049	
12	Registrar of Voters	5/9	5/9	58773	
13	Parking	5/9	5/9	106460	
14	Planning	5/9	5/9	236409	
15	Redevelopment Board	3/18	3/18	353,468	
16	Zoning Board of Appeals	3/18	3/18	23,890	Under review
17	Public Works	5/9	5/9	6787465	
17a	Street Lights	5/9	5/9	418893	
18a	Community Safety Admin	5/9	5/9	378265	
18b	Police	5/9	5/9	5874427	
18c	Fire	5/9	5/9	5534923	17-1
18d	Support	5/9	5/9	702209	
19	Inspections	5/9	5/9	364898	
20	Education	5/9	5/9		
21	Library	5/9	5/9	1974669	
22a	Health & Human Services	5/9			tabled
22b	Veterans	3/18	3/18	326,568	
22c	COA	5/9	5/9	148017	
23	Retirement	3/18	3/18	6575040	
24	Insurance	5/9	5/9	18206577	
25	Reserve Fund	3/18,4/9	4/9	600,000	=
W&S EF	Rev 16328510 Exp 16328510	5/9	5/9		
Rec EF	Rev 600,500, Exp 597,132	3/18	3/18		
Rnk EF	Rev 567,000, Exp 560,267	3/18	3/18		
COA EF					
Youth EF		5/9			tabled